

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A process for producing continuous filament nonwoven fabric, comprising the steps of:

providing a single polypropylene resin having an MFR of about 6 to 16;

providing a spinneret assembly having a plurality of extrusion holes; elevating the temperature of said polymeric resin to a melt temperature between of about 240° C to 280° C;

extruding the polymeric resin through the holes of the spinneret assembly to form filaments at a rate of about 0.4 to 0.7 grams/hole/minute;

drawing said filaments at a rate of between about 1200 to 1800 meters/minute;

collecting said filaments to form a nonwoven fabric; and

said nonwoven fabric having a minimum MD and CD Strip Tensile Strength per unit basis weight of at least 47.1 grams-force per centimeter per gram per square meter.

2. A process for producing continuous filament nonwoven fabric as in Claim 1, wherein said polymeric resin is elevated to a melt temperature of between about 250° C and 270° C.

3. A process for producing continuous filament nonwoven fabric as in Claim 1, wherein said filaments are formed at a rate of 0.43 to 0.6 grams/hole/minute.

4. A process for producing continuous filament nonwoven fabric as in Claim 1, wherein said filaments are drawn at a rate of between about 1400 to 1700 meters/minute.

5. A process for producing continuous filament nonwoven fabric as in Claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric is formed by application of calender rolls at a pressure of about 400 to 800 pounds/linear inch, said rolls having a surface temperature of about 145° C to 165° C.

6. A process for producing continuous filament nonwoven fabric, comprising the steps of:

providing a polymeric resin consisting of a single polypropylene polymer having an MFR of about 6 to 16;

5 providing a spinneret assembly having a plurality of extrusion holes; elevating the temperature of said polymeric resin to a melt temperature between of about 240° C to 280° C;

extruding the polymeric resin through the holes of the spinneret assembly to form filaments at a rate of about 0.4 to 0.7 grams/hole/minute;

10 drawing said filaments at a rate of between about 1200 to 1800 meters/minute;

collecting said filaments to form a nonwoven fabric; and

15 said nonwoven fabric having a minimum MD and CD Strip Tensile Strength per unit basis weight of at least 47.1 grams-force per centimeter per gram per square meter.

7. A continuous filament nonwoven fabric, comprising a polypropylene resin having an MFR of about 6 to 16, said nonwoven fabric having a minimum MD and CD Strip Tensile Strength per unit basis weight of at least 47.1 grams-force per centimeter per gram per square meter.

20 8. A continuous filament nonwoven fabric, consisting of a polypropylene resin having an MFR of about 6 to 16, and at least one melt additive, said nonwoven fabric having a minimum MD and CD Strip Tensile Strength per unit basis weight of at least 47.1 grams-force per centimeter per gram per square meter.